



February 27, 1979

Mr. Michael M. Johnston, Chief
Air Compliance Evaluation Section
U.S. Environmental Protection
Agency, Region X
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98101

Reference: Pending PSD Application of August 2, 1978:
Prudhoe Bay Oil Field

Dear Mr. Johnston:

As previously discussed, both ARCO Oil and Gas Company, a Division of Atlantic Richfield Company, and Sohio Petroleum Company (Sohio) are concerned about the timely issuance of the referenced PSD permit.

We realize that the PSD process allows up to one year from application for final determination. However, we are planning to make major financial commitments for some proposed field facilities by April 30, 1979. We are not prepared to make these commitments without having PSD approvals in hand. You have indicated that you expect to have those approvals issued by that time.

As you are aware, there is a limited time period or "window" during which facilities can be barged to the Prudhoe Bay field. Slight delays in the release of funds for the construction of such facilities caused by late receipt of regulatory approvals could possibly delay shipment of the affected equipment by one year.

We appreciate your continuing efforts to expedite the review process and issuance of the permits to accommodate our own scheduling intricacies. Please let me know if there is anything Del Dias or myself can do to expedite the permitting process for approval not later than the end of April.

Very truly yours,

W. P. Metz
Senior Environmental Engineer

WPM:mf

cc: George N. Nelson - Sohio
Paul B. Norgaard - ARCO
Del F. Dias - Sohio
State of Alaska DEC

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